

XLIII.—*Neotetracus sinensis*, a new Insectivore of the Family Erinaceidae. By E.-L. TROUËSSART, C.M.Z.S., Professor at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris.

NEOTETRACUS, gen. nov.

Similar in external form to *Podogymnura** or *Macroscelides*, but with the dentition of *Erinaceus*. The two-fanged canine in either jaw not higher than the small incisors which precede it and the small premolars which follow it. Palate incompletely ossified like that of *Erinaceus*. Pelage soft, not spiny; tail well developed.

Dental formula:—

$$I. \begin{smallmatrix} 3-3 \\ 3-3 \end{smallmatrix}, C. \begin{smallmatrix} 1-1 \\ 1-1 \end{smallmatrix}, Pm. \begin{smallmatrix} 3-3 \\ 3-3 \end{smallmatrix}, M. \begin{smallmatrix} 3-3 \\ 3-3 \end{smallmatrix} = \text{total } 40.$$

The first upper incisor is high, conical, having the shape usual in the family; the second, widely separated from the preceding, is nearly as broad but not so high; the third is very small; the double-rooted canine, with triangular crown, is a little longer but not higher than the incisor which precedes it; the first two premolars, subequal, are a little smaller than the canine, but have the same shape, the anterior and posterior tubercles being atrophied; the third premolar very large, with four tubercles, of which the anterior external one is well developed and projecting. The molars diminish in height from the first to the third: the first, with quadrangular crown, has five tubercles, as usual in the family, the fifth median, and has in addition a spur simulating a small posterior tubercle closely adjoining the posterior external tubercle; the second molar, a little smaller, resembles the preceding; the third, with triangular crown, has only three tubercles, two in front, one behind.

In the lower jaw, the first incisor is very large, proclivous, spatulate, and with spoon-shaped hollows on its supero-internal face; the second and third are very small, the crown lower in front (as in *Erinaceus*); the canine is small and similar to the incisors which precede it; the first two premolars are small, with the anterior and posterior tubercles atrophied; the third is very large, trituberculate, the median tubercle very large and prominent. The molars diminish in height from the first to the third: the first has five tubercles disposed 1, 2, and 2, the two posterior pairs united by a trans-

* Mearns, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxviii. 1905, p. 437; Marcus Ward Lyon, Jr., loc. cit. xxxvi. 1909, pp. 449-456, pl. 36. I was in error in uniting *Hylomys* and *Gymnura* in the 'Catalogus Mammalium'—the two are quite distinct.

verse crest; the second has only four tubercles, 2 and 2; the third is smaller, but similar to the second, slightly narrowed behind.

All these teeth, in both jaws, have their points intact, sharp (and not worn as in *Erinaceus*).

Affinities and Differences.—According to the figures published by M. W. Lyon of the unique specimen of *Podogymnura truei*, *Neotetracus* resembles it in its external form, notably in its well-developed tail, but it differs from it very decidedly by the dentition. The skull of *Neotetracus* resembles, moreover, that of *Hylomys*, but the canine is still more reduced than in that genus; in *Neotetracus* the canine and the premolars want the posterior spur which is very prominent in *Hylomys*. The lower jaw presents still more striking differences: in *Hylomys* the lower incisors decrease very gradually from the first to the third, keeping their spatulate shape; in *Neotetracus* the large anterior incisor is followed by two very small atrophied teeth, so that between the large anterior incisor and the large third premolar there are five small subequal functionless teeth. Seen in profile the jaws are still more dissimilar: in *Hylomys* the anterior part of the ramus is bent downwards in spade form; in *Neotetracus* this anterior part, more constricted, is, on the contrary, turned upwards.

By its incompletely ossified palate, as by its reduced canines, *Neotetracus* approaches *Erinaceus*, but this lacunar character of the palate has probably not the value which has been attributed to it, as all intermediate conditions are found. By its small size (it is the smallest living species of the family), its slender jaw, and the form of its inferior molars the new type approaches *Tetracus nanus*, Aymard*, a fossil species from the Tertiary of France, known only from an incomplete fragment, and of which the fore dental formula is unknown.

To sum up, *Neotetracus* joins the Gymnurinæ to the Erinaceinæ, and it will perhaps be necessary to unite the two subfamilies into one, or to distinguish them solely by the nature of their pelage.

Neotetracus sinensis, sp. n.

Form recalling those of *Macroscelides* and *Podogymnura*. Head conical, elongate, with the snout projecting beyond the

* Aymard, Ann. Soc. du Puy, 1848, p. 244; 1849, p. 110: Filhol, Ann. Sc. Géol. xii. 1882, p. 8, pl. vi. figs. 7-9.

lower jaw. Ears rounded, very large. Feet five-toed, slender, elongate, especially in the hind limb. All the under surface of the foot naked or covered with very short hairs. Tail about half the length of the body, somewhat slender, covered with very short hairs.

Pelage similar to that of *Hylomys suillus dorsalis*, Thomas, composed of two sorts of hair, but the general tint inclining to reddish yellow. The majority of the hairs are of a deep reddish yellow (grey at their base); long black hairs (longer and more scattered, lighter at their points) project beyond the reddish hairs, and are much more numerous on the back, less abundant on the flanks. Beneath of a greyish white. Ears (with very short hairs) and feet of a more or less deep brown; the fore feet tinted with reddish on their anterior face. Soles of feet with six tubercles ranged two and two.

Dimensions.—Head and body 115 millim.; head 35 millim.; ear 15 millim.; tail 55 millim.; tarsus 26 millim.; naked part of the tibia 15 millim.; basal length of the skull 30 millim., greatest breadth 15 millim.

Seven specimens in skin with their skulls.

Hab. Ta-t sien-lou, province of Se-tchouen (China Occidental), at an altitude of 2545 metres. Sent by the Catholic Mission of Ta-t sien-lou, under the direction of Mgr. Biet, Apostolic Bishop of Tibet.

Later on I shall give a more complete description of this interesting type, accompanied by figures.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenæ in the British Museum. Vol. VIII. *Catalogue of the Noctuidæ.* By Sir GEORGE F. HAMPSON, Bart. London: Printed by Order of the Trustees. 8vo. Pp. xiv, 583; pls. cxxiii.—cxxxvi., and 162 figures in the text. (Text, price 15s.; plates, 12s.)

THE appearance of a new volume of this gigantic work is now almost an annual event, and frequenters of the insect-room at the British Museum must often admire the quiet persistency with which the indefatigable author pursues his work, year in and year out, allowing nothing to divert his attention from it for an instant. In the preface to the present volume Professor Harmer tells us:—"The subject of Vol. VIII. of the 'Catalogue of Moths' is the second part of the Noctuid subfamily *Acronyctinæ*: it contains 720 species belonging to 104 genera as compared with 843 species belonging to 96 genera in Vol. VII., leaving 171 genera to be dealt with in the third and final part of the subfamily, which it is hoped will appear